

Department of Health  
Board of Occupational and Physical Therapy Examiners  
Policy Statements

**POLICY STATEMENT**  
**TENNESSEE COMMITTEE OF PHYSICAL THERAPY**

<b>POLICY: EDUCATIONAL EQUIVALENCY FOR FOREIGN TRAINED THERAPISTS</b>
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Rule 1150-1-.04 (4)(a) in pertinent part provides as follows:

*...The evaluation must clearly indicate that the applicant's education is equivalent to a B.S. in Physical Therapy from a CAPTE approved school in the United States. In no event, however, is the Committee bound by the determinations made by credentialing agencies; as the Committee is the final arbiter as to whether such education is equivalent. The standards established by the National Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy will also be considered by the Board in making these determinations.*

The Tennessee Committee of Physical Therapy hereby adopts the following guidelines as measures of equivalency for foreign trained Physical Therapists.

1. Proof of proficiency in the English language by passing TOEFL, TWE, and TSE pursuant to Rule 1150-1-.04.
2. Verification of the equivalency of the applicant's education to the following standards by one of the Committee's approved credentialing agencies.
3. The minimum educational requirements for licensure as a physical therapist shall be 120 semester hours as follows:

General Educational Requirements:

A minimum of 42 semester hours with a grade of "C" or its equivalent or above.

Credits are required in each of the following:

- Humanities – one course minimum
- Physical Sciences – two courses in Physics and two courses in Chemistry required
- Biological Sciences – one semester course in biology
- Social Sciences – one course minimum
- Behavioral Sciences – one semester course in psychology
- Mathematics – one course minimum

Professional Educational Requirements:

A minimum of 69 semester hours with a grade of "C" or its equivalent or above.

Credits are required in each of the following:

- Basic Sciences – must include one course each:
  - Human Anatomy – specific to physical therapy
  - Human Physiology – specific to physical therapy
  - Neurological Sciences
  - Kinesiology/Functional Anatomy
  - Abnormal or developmental psychology
  - Pathology
- Clinical Sciences – must include one course each, but not limited to:
  - Neurology
  - Orthopedics
  - Pediatrics
  - Geriatrics
  - Integumentary Assessment and Treatment
  - Musculoskeletal Assessment and Treatment
  - Neuromuscular Assessment and Treatment
  - Cardiopulmonary Assessment and Treatment
- Clinical Education – two affiliations, total 800 hours minimum
- Related Professional Courses – three courses minimum
  - Professional Ethics
  - Administration
  - Community Health
  - Research
  - Educational Techniques
  - Medical Terminology
  - Communication (related to patient care)

CLEP semester hours or credits shall be accepted for general education hours only.

**Adopted by the Committee of Physical Therapy on this the 6<sup>th</sup> day of November, 1998.**

For further information, please use the contact information provided below.

**Board of Occupational and Physical Therapy Examiners**

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